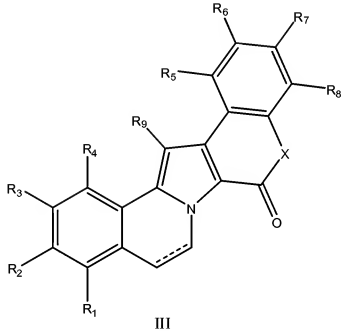
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A compound of the general formula **III**:



III

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO_2R', NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, NO_2, $PO(R')_2$, PO_2R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO_2H, CO_2R', $OPO(R')_2$, OPO_2R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or

unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein R_9 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO_2R', NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, NO_2, $PO(R')_2$, PO_2R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO_2H, CO_2R', $OPO(R')_2$, OPO_2R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic, bromine, and iodine;

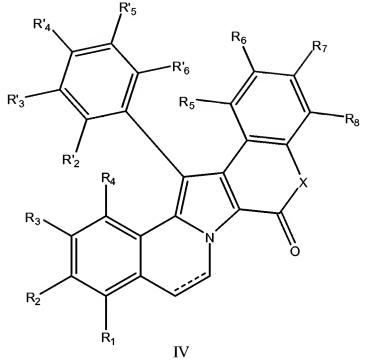
wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, NO_2, NH_2, SH, CN, halogen, C(=O)H, $C(=O)CH_3$, CO_2H, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{18} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{18} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkoxyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkylsulfonyl;

wherein the pairs of groups R_1 and R_2, R_2 and R_3, R_3 and R_4, R_3 and R_9, R_4 and R_9, R_9 and R_5, R_9 and R_6, or R_6 and R_7, R_7 and R_8 may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

2. (currently amended) A compound of the general formula **IV**:



IV

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_8, R'_2, R'_3, R'_4, R'_5, and R'_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO_2R', NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, NO_2, $PO(R')_2$, PO_2R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO_2H, CO_2R', $OPO(R')_2$, OPO_2R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein R_7 is independently selected from the group consisting of OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO_2R', NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, NO_2, $PO(R')_2$, PO_2R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO_2H, CO_2R', $OPO(R')_2$, OPO_2R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

with the proviso that R_7 is not Me, Et, Pr, COMe, OH, OMe, OAc, O^iPr or OBn when X is O;

wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, NO_2, NH_2, SH, CN, halogen, C(=O)H, $C(=O)CH_3$, CO_2H, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{18} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{18} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkoxyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkylsulfonyl;

wherein the pairs of groups R_1 and R_2, R_2 and R_3, R_3 and R_4, ~~R_6 and R_7~~, or R_7 and R_8 may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein X is O or NH.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein X is O.

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the dotted line is a double bond.

6. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein each of R_1-R_8 is independently selected from H, OR', and OC(=O)R'.

7. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, and OR', with the proviso that when R_3 is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl.

8. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R_4, R_5, R_6 and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H and OR', with the proviso that when R_4, R_5, R_6 or R_8 is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl.

9. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 wherein R_4, R_5 and R_8 are H.

10. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1, R_2 and R_7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', OC(=O)R', SO_2R', $PO(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, NO_2, and NH_2, with the proviso that when R_1, R_2 or R_7 are OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl.

11. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 wherein R_1, R_2 and R_7 are OC(=O)R' wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted aminoacid or aminoacids chain.

12. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein R'_2, R'_3 and R'_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H and OR', wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl.

13. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein R'_5 is selected from the group consisting of H and OR', wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl.

14. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 wherein R'_4 is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', OC(=O)R', SO_2R', $PO(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, NO_2, and NH_2, with the proviso that when R'_4 is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl.

15. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R'_4 is OR' and wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted aminoacid or aminoacids chain.

16. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein at least one of R_1-R_8 and R'_2-R'_6 is not H, OH, OCH_3, and SO_3Na.

17. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in

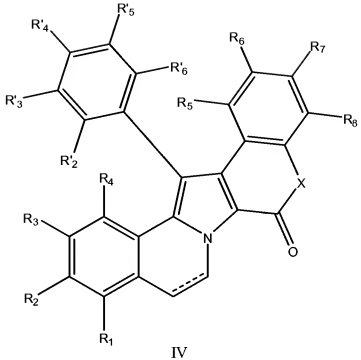
claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A method of treating a tumor in a human which comprises administering to said human an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

20. (previously presented) A method of inhibiting topoisomerase I comprising administering to a human an amount effective for inhibiting topoisomerase I of a compound as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

21. (currently amended) A compound of the general formula **IV**:



IV

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_8, R'_2, R'_3, R'_4, R'_5, and R'_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO_2R', NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, NO_2, $PO(R')_2$, PO_2R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO_2H, CO_2R', $OPO(R')_2$, OPO_2R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein R_7 is independently selected from the group consisting of OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO_2R', NHR', $N(R')_2$, N=R', NHCOR', $N(COR')_2$, $NHSO_2R'$, NO_2, $PO(R')_2$, PO_2R', C(=O)H, CO_2H, CO_2R', $OPO(R')_2$, OPO_2R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', $N=C(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12}

haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{12} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

with the proviso that R_7 is not OH, OMe, OAc, O^{i}Pr or OBn when X is O;

wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, NO_2, NH_2, SH, CN, halogen, C(=O)H, C(=O)CH_3, CO_2H, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{18} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{18} alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkoxyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkylsulfonyl;

wherein the pairs of groups R_1 and R_2, R_2 and R_3, R_3 and R_4, ~~R_6 and R_7~~, or R_7 and R_8 may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

22. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 7 wherein R_3 is methoxy.

23. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 13 wherein R'_5 is methoxy.

24. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein at least two of R_1-R_8 and R'_2-R'_6 are not H, OH, OCH_3, or SO_3Na.

25. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 11 wherein R' is an aminoacid or aminoacids chain substituted with a cationic group.

26. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 15 wherein R' is an aminoacid or aminoacids chain substituted with a cationic group.

27. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 or 21 wherein each of R_1-R_6 and R_8 is independently selected from H, OR', and OC(=O)R' and wherein R_7 is selected from OR' and OC(=O)R'.

28. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 or 21 wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', OC(=O)R', SO_2R', $PO(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, NO_2, and NH_2, with the proviso that when R_1 or R_2 are OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl; and

wherein R_7 is selected from the group consisting of OR', OC(=O)R', SO_2R', $PO(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{12} alkyl, NO_2, and NH_2, with the proviso that when R_7 is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} alkyl group.

29. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 12 wherein R'_2, R'_3, and R'_6 are H.

30. (canceled)